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Title: Request the Government to increase kerosene quota for traditional fishermen using outboard engines fishing crafts.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to bring to the kind attention of the Government towards the problems being faced by the traditional fishermen community for their requirement of kerosene.

There are about 15,000 OBM fitted traditional fishing crafts now in operation in the coastal water of Kerala State. These out board motors are kerosene operated. The requirement of kerosene is 14,000 kilo litre per month, but the actual allocation is only 4,743 kilo litre. There is a wide gap of 9,257 kilo litre of kerosene against the actual requirement of fisheries sector.

The present allocation of kerosene is sufficient only for ten days in a month. For the remaining days the fishermen are forced to either sit idle or buy kerosene from the black market at the rate of Rs. 12-14/litre. This has resulted in a situation where there is a sharp drop in the income levels of traditional fishermen, which ultimately leads to abject starvation in the coastal belt of Kerala. The fishermen are also forced to borrow money and fall victims of exploitation by moneylenders. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Govindan, you cannot read in the `Zero Hour'.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN : In these circumstances, I would request the hon. Minister of Petroleum to increase kerosene quota for traditional fishermen in fisheries sector using out board engines immediately.

1309 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes

past Fourteen of the Clock.